In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A flooring system comprising:

a subfloor;

a decorative top layer;

a substrate having a top surface and an oppositely facing bottom surface, the bottom surface is positioned proximate the subfloor and the top surface is positioned proximate the decorative top layer, the substrate having voids which extend between the top surface and the bottom surface, the substrate is manufactured from rubber in sheets which are cut to ~~the~~ a desired configuration;

whereby the substrate has the strength characteristics to support the decorative layer and prevent damage thereto and the sound dampening characteristics to provide decibel reduction through the substrate.

2. (original) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the density of the substrate is less than 1000 kilograms per meter cubed.

3. (original) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the substrate has the strength characteristics required to support the decorative layer while having sufficient resiliency to allow the substrate to be delivered in rolls.

4. (original) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the substrate is fixed to the subfloor by means of an adhesive.

5. (original) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the substrate is fixed to the decorative top layer by means of an adhesive.

6. (original) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the substrate is made from an SBR rubber material.

7. (original) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the sound dampening characteristics exhibit a decibel reduction of approximately 20 dB for a substrate with a thickness of 5 mm.

8. (currently amended) A substrate for use in a flooring system which has a subfloor and a decorative upper layer, the substrate comprising:

a sheet having a bottom surface, a top surface, side surfaces and end surfaces, the top surface and the oppositely facing bottom surface are essentially parallel to each other and are spaced apart by the thickness of the substrate;

voids are provided in the substrate, the voids are provided between particles of rubber~~;~~ such that ~~whereby~~ when the substrate is positioned between the subfloor and the decorative top layer, the particles of rubber provide the strength required to prevent deformation of the substrate in the direction of the thickness and the voids contribute to the sound dampening characteristics required to provide decibel reduction across the thickness of the substrate.

9. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 8 wherein the density of the substrate is less than 1000 kilograms per meter cubed.

10. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 8 wherein the substrate has the strength characteristics required to support the decorative layer while having sufficient resiliency to allow the substrate to be delivered in rolls.

11. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 8 wherein the substrate is made from an SBR rubber material.

12. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 8 wherein the sound dampening characteristics exhibit a decibel reduction of approximately 20dB for a substrate with a thickness of 5 mm.

13. (original) A substrate for use in a flooring system which has a subfloor and a decorative upper layer, the substrate comprising:

a continuous sheet having a bottom surface, a top surface, side surfaces and end surfaces, the top surface and the oppositely facing bottom surface are essentially parallel to each other and are spaced apart by the thickness of the substrate;

voids are provided in the substrate, the voids are provided between particles of material of the substrate, such that the particles of material provide the strength required to prevent deformation of the substrate in the direction of the thickness and the voids

contribute to the sound dampening characteristics required to provide decibel reduction across the thickness of the substrate.

14. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the continuous sheet is cut to the appropriate length to fit the space requirements.

15. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the density of the substrate is less than 1000 kilograms per meter cubed.

16. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the substrate has the strength characteristics required to support the decorative layer while having sufficient resiliency to allow the substrate to be delivered in rolls.

17. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the substrate is fixed to the subfloor by means of an adhesive.

18. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the substrate is fixed to the decorative upper layer by means of an adhesive.

19. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the substrate is made from an SBR rubber material.

20. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the sound dampening characteristics exhibit a decibel reduction of approximately 20dB for a substrate with a thickness of 5 mm.

21. (currently amended) A substrate for use in a flooring system which has a subfloor and a decorative upper layer, the substrate comprising:

a sheet having a bottom surface, a top surface, side surfaces and end surfaces, the top surface and the oppositely facing bottom surface are essentially parallel to each other and are spaced apart by the thickness of the substrate;

voids are provided in the substrate, the voids are provided between particles of the sheet~~,~~ the sheet has a density of less than 1000 kilograms per meter cubed~~;~~ such that ~~whereby~~ when the substrate is positioned between the subfloor and the decorative top layer, the particles provide the strength required to prevent deformation of the substrate in the direction of the thickness and the voids contribute to the sound dampening characteristics required to provide decibel reduction across the thickness of the substrate.

22. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 21 wherein the substrate has the strength characteristics required to support the decorative layer while having sufficient resiliency to allow the substrate to be delivered in rolls.

23. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 21 wherein the substrate is made from an SBR rubber material.

24. (original) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 21 wherein the sound dampening characteristics exhibit a decibel reduction of approximately 20dB for a substrate with a thickness of 5 mm.

25. (new) The flooring system as recited in claim 1 wherein the rubber is formed in a cylindrical member and the sheets are cut from the cylindrical member.

26. (new) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 13 wherein the continuous sheet is cut from a cylindrical member.

27. (new) The substrate for use in a flooring system as recited in claim 21 wherein the sheet is cut to a desired length from a cylindrical member made of rubber and polyurethane.

28. (new) A method of manufacturing a substrate for preventing the transmission of sound, comprising:

curing a mixture of rubber and polyurethane to form a cylindrical member of rubber; and

cutting a continuous sheet from an outside layer of the cylindrical member to form the substrate.

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 13-17, with the following:

The decorative top layer may be wood, linoleum, ceramic tile, carpet, or any other known flooring. Individual components of the decorative top layer 7 are positioned in place and secured to each other by frictional engagement, glue, grout, or other conventional means. As decorative flooring is commonly used, a further explanation of the specifics relating to the decorative top layer ~~8~~ 7 will not be provided.

Please replace the three paragraphs beginning on page 5, line 16, to page 6, line 12, with the following three paragraphs:

During installation of the flooring system, at least one continuous sheet of the substrate 6 is brought to the job and cut to the appropriate length. As the rubber material of the present invention has not been vulcanized, the rubber material has the flexibility required to allow the rubber material to be delivered in rolls of sheets. With the substrate 6 cut to the proper length, the substrate is positioned over and covers the subfloor 4. As each sheet of the substrate 6 is generally four feet wide, several sheets of substrate may be required to fully cover the subfloor 4. The use of continuous sheets eliminates many of the seams found in the prior art. Previously, individual pieces of some type of substrate would be positioned on the subfloor. The use of many rectangular pieces requires many seams which are difficult to align precisely, thereby causing gaps to be provided therebetween. The use of the sheets minimizes this problem.

The substrate 6 may or may not be glued or secured to the subfloor 4. If glue or adhesive ~~5~~ 20 or the like is to be used, the glue is generally applied to the subfloor prior to the substrate being finally positioned thereon. As the substrate 6 is in the form of continuous sheets, the

weight of the sheets and their frictional interface with the subfloor is generally sufficient to maintain the substrate in position, thereby eliminating the need for glue ~~5~~ 20 or the like.

With the substrate 6 properly positioned on the subfloor 4, the decorative top layer 7 can be installed. Depending on the material used for the decorative top layer, the material may or may not be glued or secured to the substrate. If glue or adhesive ~~5~~ 20 is to be used, the glue is generally applied in small areas and the decorative top layer is installed thereon. This process is repeated until the entire decorative top layer is installed.

Replace the paragraph on page 7, line 21-23, with the following:

The rubber substrate 6 is also moisture insensitive compared to other materials such as cork. Therefore, in environments where the floor system is exposed to liquids, the performance of the rubber substrate 6 will ~~by~~ be unaffected by the liquid and will not degrade over time.